A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN... WHAT THOUGHTS ACCOMPANY HER HUMMING?
A MOUNTAIN FOX AND A POOR GIRL...
THE FOX'S WEDDING

THE LAMENTING MELODY IS THE VOICE OF A FOX...
LOST, LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS...

A SOUL PLAYING HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK WITH A FOX...
THE FOX CRIES WHEN THE MAN MISSES HER...
THE PEOPLE CRY WHEN SHE DOES NOT RETURN HOME...

THE FOX'S WEDDING
狐ノ嫁入り
CHAPTER ONE
THE TRAGIC LOVE STORY THAT'S BEEN SUNG FOR AGES FINALLY GETS IT'S VERY OWN SUSPENSE MANGA!

Original Concept: OSTER project

Character Concept: Chiho

Manga: Yuuko Satou

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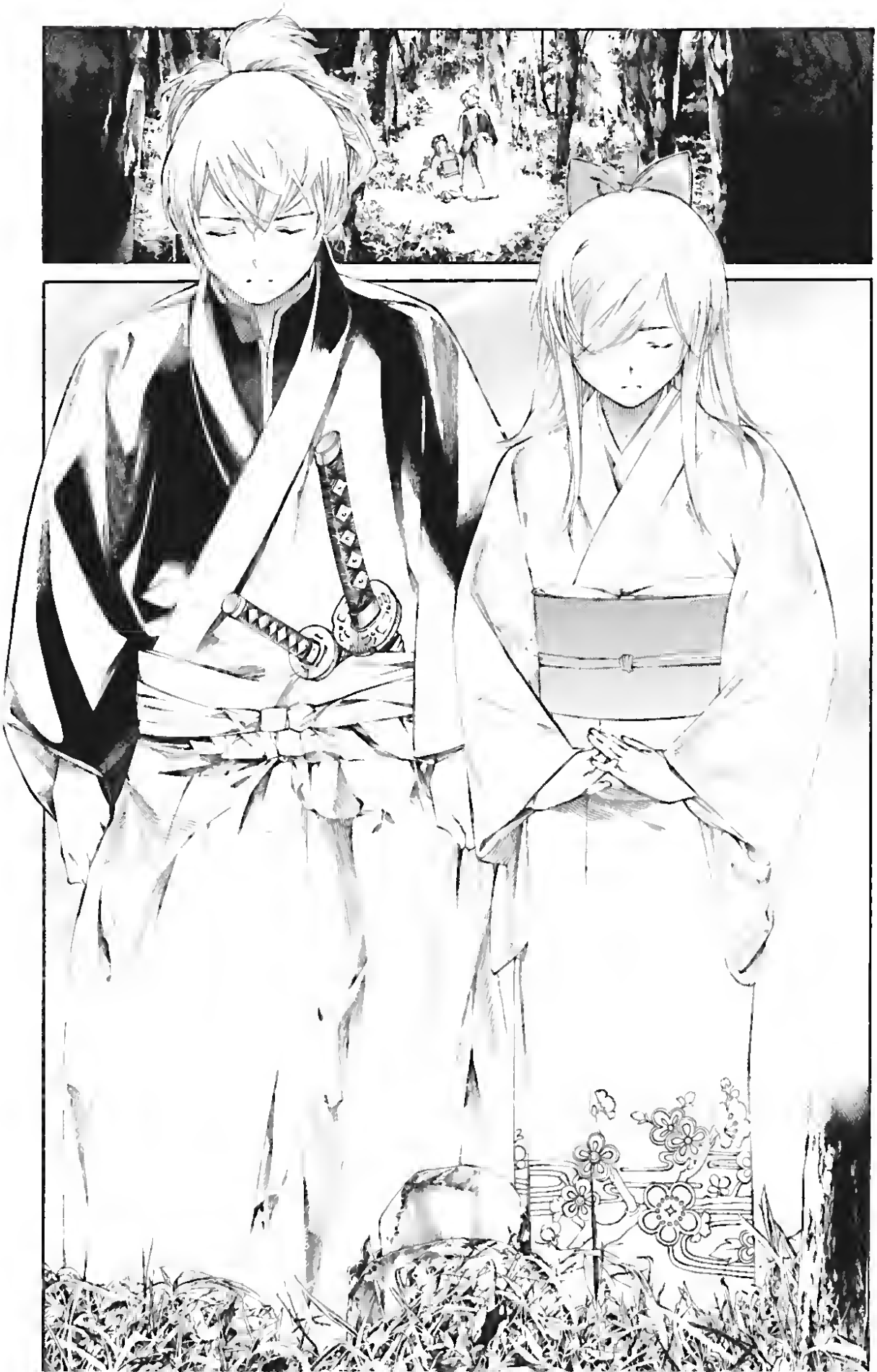
HAVE YOU EVER LOVED SOMEONE WHO WILL NEVER LOVE YOU BACK?



WE'RE ALMOST 16 NOW...
10 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN...

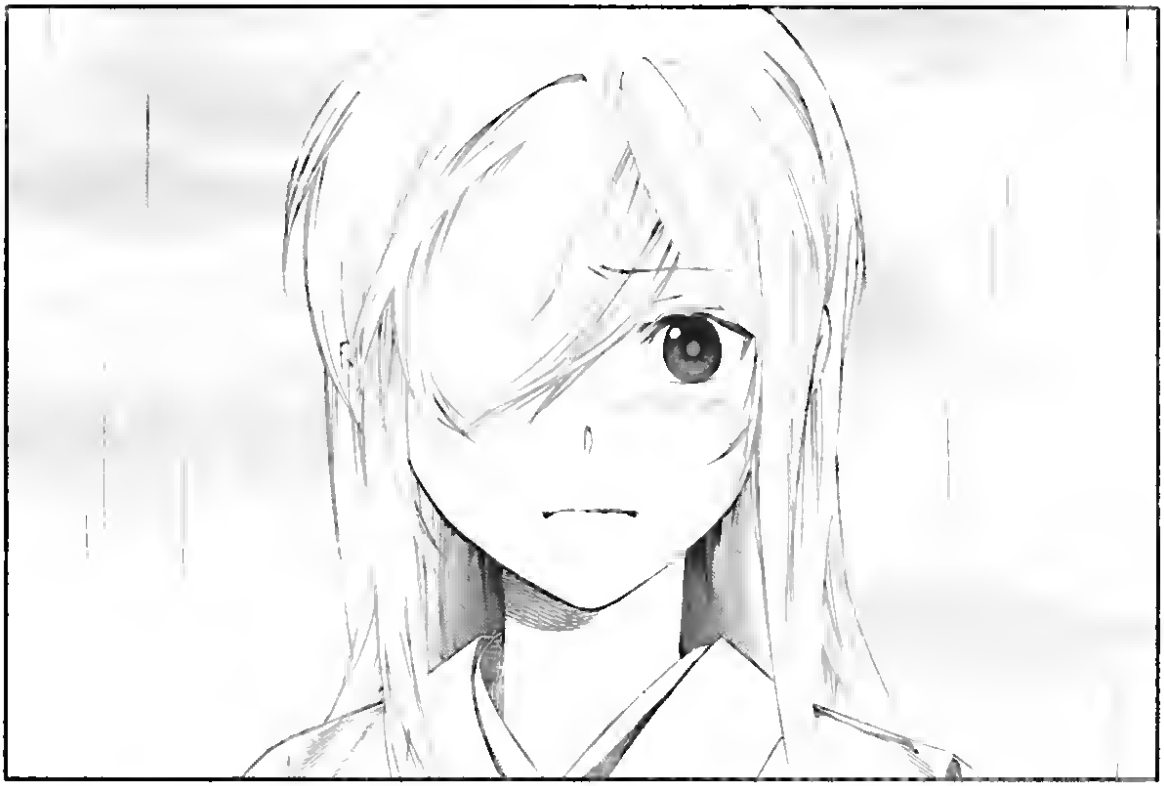
...WAS SHE SPIRITED ... AWAY?
ギュッ
WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?
...WHY WAS HATSUNE THE ONLY ONE TO DIE?

SISTER...
LET'S HONOR HATSUNE'S MEMORY BY LIVING OUR LIVES TO THE FULLEST...

YES. AND FROM HERE ON OUT, I'LL...

THE FOX'S WEDDING ...
IS THAT WHAT THEY CALL THIS KIND OF WEATHER?
WHEN IT RAINS WITH NOT A CLOUD IN SIGHT...
...YOU CAN SEE THE FLAMES OF THE WEDDING OF A FOX WHO LOVED SOMEONE IN THE DISTANT MOUNTAINS.

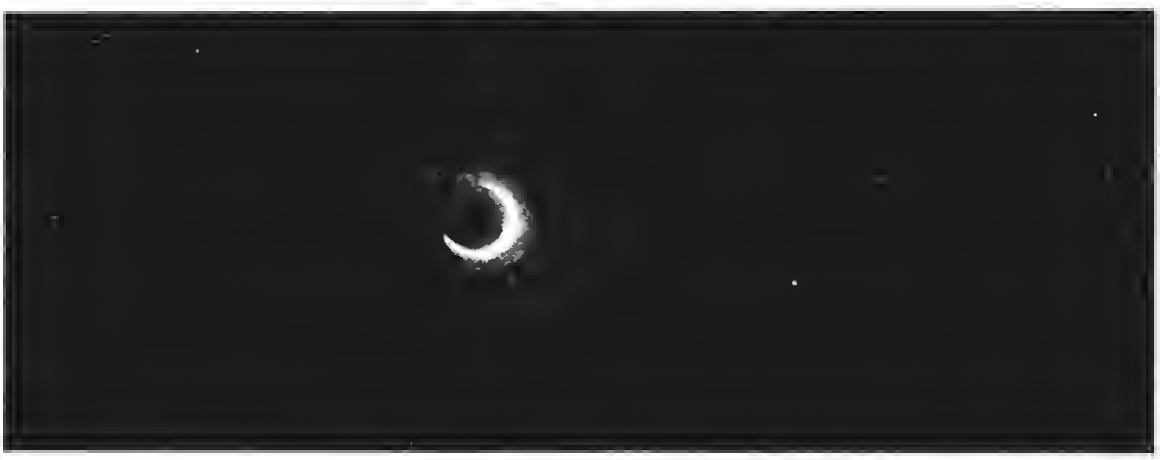
WHO DID THE FOX MARRY?



LET'S GO HOME, SISTER.

SIS-
TER
...
JUST...
JUST
UNTIL THE
RAIN
STOPS...

HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO KEEP DOING THIS?
IT ISN'T RIGHT...

...
REALLY
...?


YOU'RE BACK FROM VISITING THE GRAVE?

YES, WE'RE SO SORRY TO BE LATE.
LEN, YOU'LL BE 16 SOON... I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE OF THE PREDICAMENT MUSASHI IS CURRENTLY FACED WITH.
MMM... I'M SORRY FOR DOING THIS SO QUICKLY AFTER YOUR RETURN, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING WE MUST DISCUSS.

...EVER SINCE YOUR FATHER WAS LOST IN THE WAR, THIS COUNTRY HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN THE TARGET OF ITS NEIGHBORS.
THERE IS NO DOUBTING YOUR VALOR, BUT I FEAR THAT IF YOU GIVE YOUR BODY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THIS COUNTRY, YOU WILL BE DOOMED TO THE SAME FATE AS YOUR FATHER...
NOW... YOU BOTH KNOW OF KAIDOU-SAMA, CORRECT?

YES. THE LEADER OF OWARI PRAISED HIM AS BEING THE "CHAMPION OF THE NEXT GENERA-TION."
I HAVE HEARD MUCH OF HIS HEROISM.
AS A FELLOW WARRIOR, I WOULD HATE TO SEE HIM IN AN OPPOSING ENCAMPMENT...

KAIDOU-SAMA HAS STATED THAT HE WISHES TO MEET WITH YOU, LEN.
AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU BE THE HEIR TO OWARI...
?!
UNFORTUNATELY, KAIDOU-SAMA DOES NOT HAVE ANY SONS...
KAIDOU-SAMA HIMSELF HAS REQUESTED, IN HIS OWN HONORABLE VOICE, THAT YOU MARRY INTO HIS FAMILY AND BEAR A CHILD WITH HIS DAUGHTER.

UNCLE! YOU'RE GOING TO SEND LEN OVER TO THE ENEMY'S SIDE FOR THE SAKE OF MUSASHI?!
NO!
SISTER... YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG.

KAIDOU IS A SAVAGE AND CRUEL MAN... THIS MAY BE A TRAP!
THIS IS LEN'S LIFE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE...!

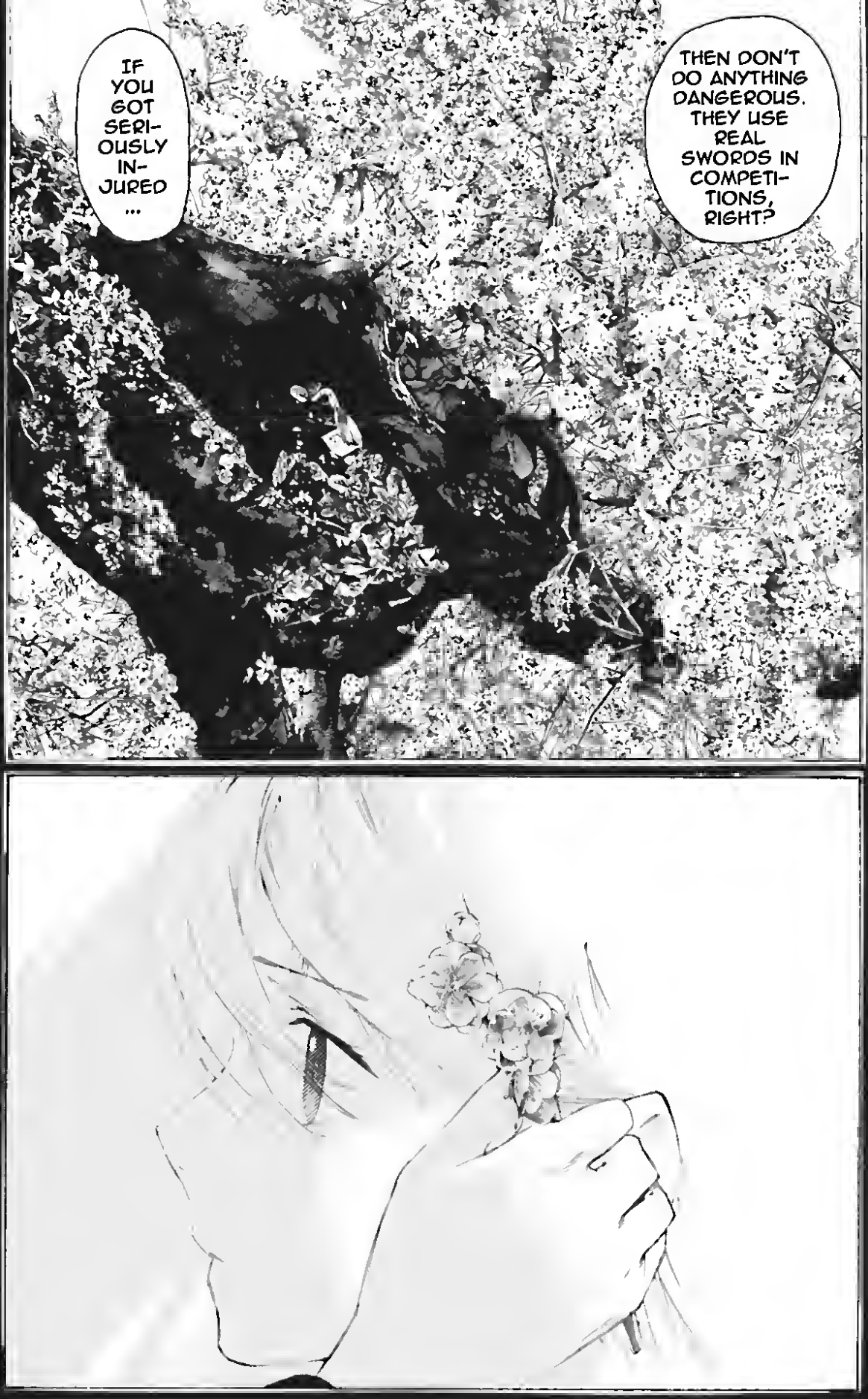
IF I MARRY INTO KAIDOU-SAMA'S FAMILY, HE WON'T ATTACK MUSASHI... NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE'LL BECOME OUR ALLY...
CORRECT, UNCLE?

IT'S AS LEN SAYS, RIN... PLEASE TRY TO UNDER-STAND...

SENSEI COMPLI-MENTED ME AND SAID THAT I HAD APTITUDE. HE MIGHT EVEN LET ME TAKE PART IN THE NEXT COMPETI-TION.
YOU LET EVERY-THING GO STRAIGHT TO YOUR HEAD ...
YOU'RE AN ABSOLUTE WRECK... YOU CAN'T KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF LIKE THIS.

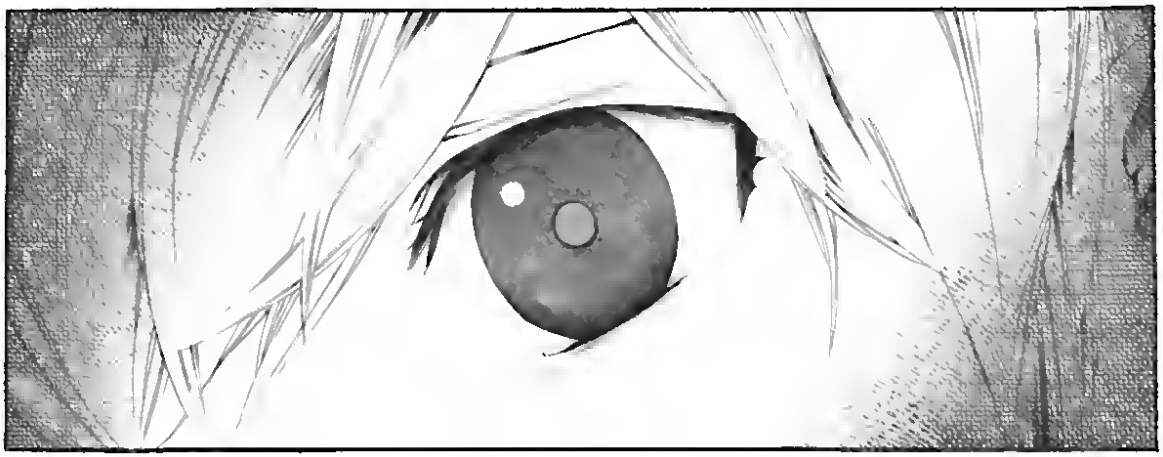
AND YOU WERE CALLED TO UNCLE'S ESTATE AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?
HE'S TRYING VERY HARD TO GET ME WORK. I REALLY NEED TO THANK HIM.

WE DON'T HAVE A FATHER OR A MOTHER ANYMORE...
YOU JUST GOT OVER YOUR COLD, SO YOU MUSTN'T PUSH YOURSELF.
WE'RE JUST BIG SISTER AND LITTLE BROTHER, ALL ALONE...


IF YOU GOT SERI-OUSLY IN-JURED ...
THEN DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS. THEY USE REAL SWORDS IN COMPETI-TIONS, RIGHT?

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ...

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE AND LEAVE YOU BEHIND, SWEET SISTER.



SO... WHEN SHOULD I GO TO MEET WITH KAIDOU-SAMA?
APPARENTLY, HIS DAUGHTER MIKU-SAMA WILL BE ARRIVING SOON.
HIS DAUGHTER... MIKU-SAMA IS COMING IN PLACE OF KAIDOU-SAMA?

МІКЦ...

MIKU...!
THE SHADOW OF A WOMAN APPROACHES HER BELOVED YOUNGER BROTHER LEN...
WHAT COULD BE GOING THROUGH RIN'S MIND NOW THAT SHE KNOWS THE WOMAN'S NAME?!